

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08
TRSE-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 NSC-05
SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01
AGRE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /160 R

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TREASURY:VMCCUTCHEON
TREASURY:JSWEENEY

-----033385 060606Z /11

P 060058Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CURACAO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY, USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, FOR AMB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, XL

SUBJECT:CONSULTATION ON THE CARIBBEAN GROUP EXERCISE

1. THE WORLD BANK HAS CONVENED A MEETING OF POTENTIAL DONORS UNDER THE CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CG) FOR MAY 16 IN PARIS. THERE MAY BE SOME CONCERN AMONG CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS THAT THIS MEETING AT WHICH THEY WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED CONSTITUTES AN EFFORT BY DONORS TO "PRE-COOK" THE FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE CG NOW SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON JUNE 19-23. WE UNDERSTAND THIS CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED IN THE CORRIDORS DURING THE CDB ANNUAL MEETING IN GEORGETOWN IN LATE APRIL, AND THAT THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATE TO THAT MEETING MADE A STRONG STATEMENT CLARIFYING THE PURPOSES OF THE DONORS MEETING AND EMPHASIZING THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT DONORS GET TOGETHER IN A FORUM WHICH PERMITS THEM TO BE COMPLETELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANDID ABOUT THE EXTENT OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CG AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY MAY BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. REPORTEDLY, THE VENEZUELAN STATEMENT ALLAYED THE FEARS OF RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED THAT THERE MAY BE LINGERING FEARS THAT DONORS ARE MEETING IN PARIS TO FIND WAYS TO "GANG UP" ON RECIPIENTS AT THE JUNE MEETING.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AT WHATEVER YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF HOST GOVERNMENT BEFORE MAY 16 TO INFORM THEM OF OUR INTENTION TO SEND A STRONG DELEGATION TO THE DONORS MEETING AND TO CLARIFY OUR PURPOSES THERE. OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES AT THE DONORS MEETING WILL BE TO:

-- STRENGTHEN THE COMMON COMMITMENT AMONG DONORS TO THE CONCEPT OF A REGIONAL GROUP FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND TO SEEK THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION AND TO THE PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS WHICH MAY BE AGREED UPON WITHIN THE CG.

-- EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF REGIONALITY INTO NEW AND EXISTING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

-- ACHIEVE SOME AGREEMENT ON AREA'S PRIMARY CONCENTRATION FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. FYI: WE FAVOR STRATEGIES WHICH WILL GENERATE EMPLOYMENT AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS. SPECIFICALLY, WE PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON AGRICULTURE, PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISE, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON SERVICES. WE BELIEVE THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THESE PRIORITIES BY BOTH DONORS AND RECIPIENTS. END FYI.

-- CONSIDER AND ENDEAVOR TO ACHIEVE SOME AGREEMENT ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VARIOUS SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DEVELOPED BY THE SPONSORING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

3. IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE FOCUS OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP ON MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT, BUT YOU MAY INDICATE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-RUN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS AND MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

4. FYI: WE PLAN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS BETWEEN THE DONORS MEETING AND THE JUNE MEETING OF THE GROUP AS A WHOLE, AND WOULD LIKE YOUR ADVICE ON THE BEST TIMING FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS. IN ADDITION, WE ASSUME RECIPIENT GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT WITH ONE ANOTHER FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY AS THEY DID PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER MEETING ON THE CARIBBEAN HELD BY THE WORLD BANK. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AT THAT MEETING THE CARICOM COUNTRIES SPOKE WITH A SINGLE VOICE THROUGH

FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE OF BARBADOS, WHO DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF PRESENTING THEIR VIEWS. DUE TO THEIR MORE SPECIFIC NATURE, THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN JUNE MAY NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO COMMON POSITIONS AMONG RECIPIENTS, BUT WE HOPE THE HABIT OF REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION DEMONSTRATED IN DECEMBER WILL BE CONTINUED. END FYI. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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